

Questions for MH Board Members to Ask at Hearings

The following list of questions would assist in gaining the insight required in order to select the most appropriate treatment option when making a commitment decision.

1. Questions to Ask Mental Health Professional or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC):

1. Is the client a danger to self or others?
2. What levels of care have you considered?
3. What is the least restrictive level of care that this client could be safely as well as effectively be treated?
4. What barriers are there to treating this client in the community? (lack of support system, inadequate transportation, etc.) Note that agencies which offer Community Support, both Mental Health and Substance Abuse/Dependence, provide transportation for clients as part of the service
5. What, if any, successful treatment history has this client had?
6. What tools were used in assessing this client? (face to face interview, record review, psychological testing, medical consult, family interview)
7. Was this client in a mental health or substance abuse/dependence service at the time they were placed under an EPC?
8. What is the diagnosis of the client? Does the client have a mental health diagnosis as well as substance abuse/dependence diagnosis? Are there any medical conditions that can worsen the mental health or substance abuse/dependence diagnosis? (Note: a diagnosis of dependency not abuse is required to commit a client to substance dependency treatment.)
9. Is this client medically and psychiatrically stable enough to participate in primary substance abuse treatment? (administer their own medications, perform activities of daily living, free from aggression)
10. If residential treatment is not recommended, is there a crisis plan for this client?
11. Are all the mental health providers involved in the assessment of this client in agreement regarding the current treatment recommendations?

12. What arrangements have been made for the treatment and commitment recommended for this client? (outpatient appointments, AA group location, transportation arrangements)

2. Questions to Ask Subjects:

1. Do you understand the recommended treatment plan?
2. What is your current diagnosis?
3. What medications are you taking and why do you take them?
4. Do you believe you can comply with the recommended treatment plan?
5. What would prevent you from succeeding in this treatment?
6. What current treatment are you receiving and with whom?
7. When was the last time you saw a mental health provider and who was it?